

Governor's STEM Academy Brief



Office of Career and Technical Education Services

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The purpose of the monthly brief is to provide information, resources, and a networking vehicle to support the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Academies in Virginia.

GOVERNOR'S STEM ACADEMIES SPOTLIGHT

Heritage High School Governor's STEM Academy, Newport News Public Schools, and Toinette Outland, Program Administrator, won third place in the National Career Pathways Partnership Excellence Award and will receive a \$1,000 cash prize plus five free one-year memberships in the National Career Pathways Network (NCPN). This award, sponsored by [Kuder](#), will be issued at the 2014 NCPN Conference, October 3–4, in Orlando, Florida. During the past three years, over 120 Academy students have participated in a 20-hour job shadowing partnership with Newport News Shipbuilding Career Pathways program, which connects students and educators with employees in Engineering and Technology through work-based experiences.

CAREER LINKS—FINANCE

- Exploration of financial careers is the focus of many Web sites, including [Finance Careers](#), [Careers in Corporate Finance](#), [Careers in Banking Brochure](#), [Careers-in-Investment-Banking.com](#), [Junior Achievement](#), and [Finance Careers, Jobs, Training and Employment Information](#).
- The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) offers up-to-date information on career opportunities in various fields of Finance.
- [Career Cluster Employment Projections, 2010–2020](#), presents an overview of changes predicted for career clusters, including Finance.
- [Career Cluster Predictions: Employment Opportunities in 2018](#) gives the NASDCTEc-sponsored report on employment projections for 2008–2018, prepared by The Center on Education and the Workforce (CEW) at Georgetown University. The report focuses particularly on the issue of changing education requirements.
- Two personal finance resources address the economic importance of a college degree and issues related to college debt: [CollegeMeasures.org](#) provides comparative salary data for recent graduates of postsecondary institutions in Virginia with comparisons available by college, by major, and by level of earned degree; the [State Council of Higher Education for Virginia](#) offers financial research on topics such as post-completion wages, financial aid, and student debt.

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The [Governor's Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance](#) is an online and live competition open to teams of Virginia high school students to participate within their state region to earn the option to advance to the live state competition.
- The Virginia Council on Economic Education annually recognizes teachers who demonstrate creativity and commitment to economic and financial education through an [Economics and Personal Finance Mini-Grant](#) program for Title I schools. The program is designed to assist teachers in expanding economic education in their classrooms and a \$250 min-grant is distributed to as many teachers as possible each year. VCEE will also select an educator who has a sustained history of commitment and contribution to economic and financial education with recognition as [Virginia's Outstanding Economic Educator for 2015](#). The Outstanding Economic Educator will be awarded \$1,000. Teachers or administrators are encouraged to nominate themselves or a colleague before the August 3, 2015 deadline.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

- TeachingMoneyVA.org offers hundreds of resources for teaching Economics and Personal Finance.
 - For finance lesson plans, games, calculators, videos, and other teaching resources, visit [Practical Money Skills for Life](#), developed by VISA, and [Hands on Banking](#) from Wells Fargo.
 - At federalreserveeducation.org, find challenging games and simulations (e.g., [Fed Chairman Game](#)), as well as lesson plans (e.g., [Balance of Power Teaching Guide](#)).
 - [WOW!Zone](#) includes lesson plans, financial worksheets and other resources on money management.
 - Mobile banking is the focus of the following lessons: [Mobile Phones Matter](#) and [Online and mobile banking and mobile payments](#). Further resources on mobile and online banking are available at [Mobile Payments Industry Workgroup](#), [Safe Internet Banking](#), and [Undeniable Reasons Why Refusing an Online Bank Account is Just Plain Dumb](#).
 - [Thirteen Ed Online](#) offers lesson plans on financial education (e.g., [Finance and Responsible Lending](#) and [Smart Consumers, Smart Choices](#)).
 - Economics lessons are available from [McRel Lesson Plan Library — Economics](#) and from the [James Madison University Center for Economic Education](#).
 - A lesson plan about bitcoin is available from [The New York Times](#).
 - Search [OpenEd](#) for more classroom resources on the topics of [economics](#) and [personal finance](#).
 - For resources on numerous financial topics, go to [U.S. News & World Report: Money Personal Finance](#), [CNNMoney](#), [Financial Times](#), and [The Wall Street Journal: Your Money](#).
 - For news and economic data from the sociological perspective, visit [Pew Research Social & Demographic Trends](#) and [Five Facts about Economic Inequality](#) from the Pew Charitable Trusts.
 - For trends, innovations, and challenges in the financial industry, see [Financial Services Trends to Watch in 2014](#), [Top 8 workplace Trends in the Financial Services Industry](#), [Top 5 Financial Services Technology Trends – March 2014](#), and [Top Financial Services Tech Trends for 2014 | How technology drivers are changing your banking experience](#), as well as [Bank Technology News](#) and [BankThink](#) from American Banker.
 - [Business Formation QuickStart](#) provides a tool for establishing a small business and assistance with legal forms and legalities related to small businesses.
 - [Free innovative educational content](#) on financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and leadership help with lesson planning and classroom instruction.
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